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**Johnson**

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(54) **CHARITY COLLECTION SAFE**

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(22) Filed: **May 13, 2004**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] ..... **E06B 7/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **109/68**; 109/59 R; 232/43.1; 232/54; 232/15
(58) **Field of Search** ..... 109/45–49, 50–57, 109/58–60, 64, 66–68; 232/10, 15, 16, 43.1, 232/43.4, 54

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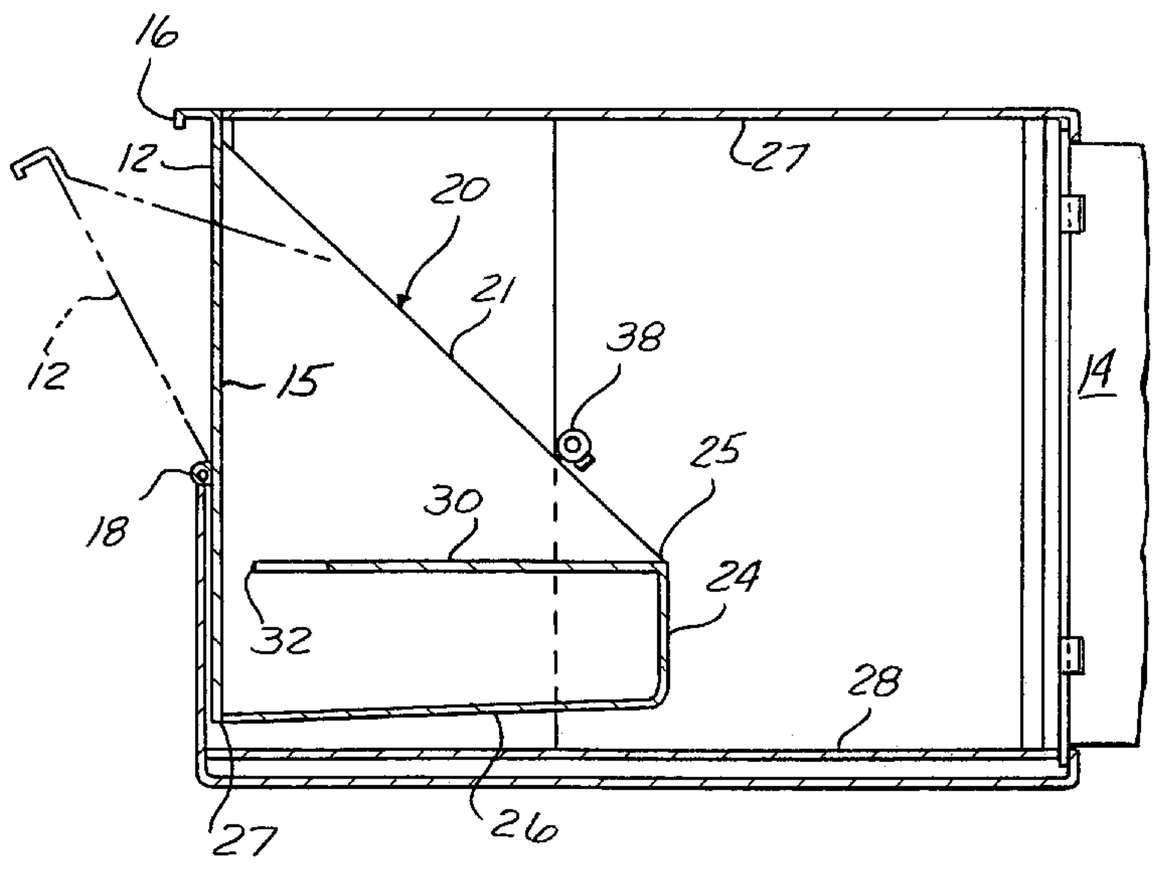
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A collection safe is provided, especially for charitable donations, for installation in a wall of a building. The collection safe has a rectangular box formation and includes a first door on one side of the box for receiving donations and a second door on the opposing side of the box to provide access to the interior. The first door is connected to a pair of side walls which extend into the interior of the box. A baffle extends and is connected to the side walls so that the baffle is oriented 90° relative to the first door. The baffle has a free end with a jagged edge such as sharp teeth that terminates less than one inch from the first door to deter the retrieval of the donations from the first door. The space between the jagged edge of the baffle and the first door provides a slot for receiving the donation past the baffle to the floor of the collection safe.

**12 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**



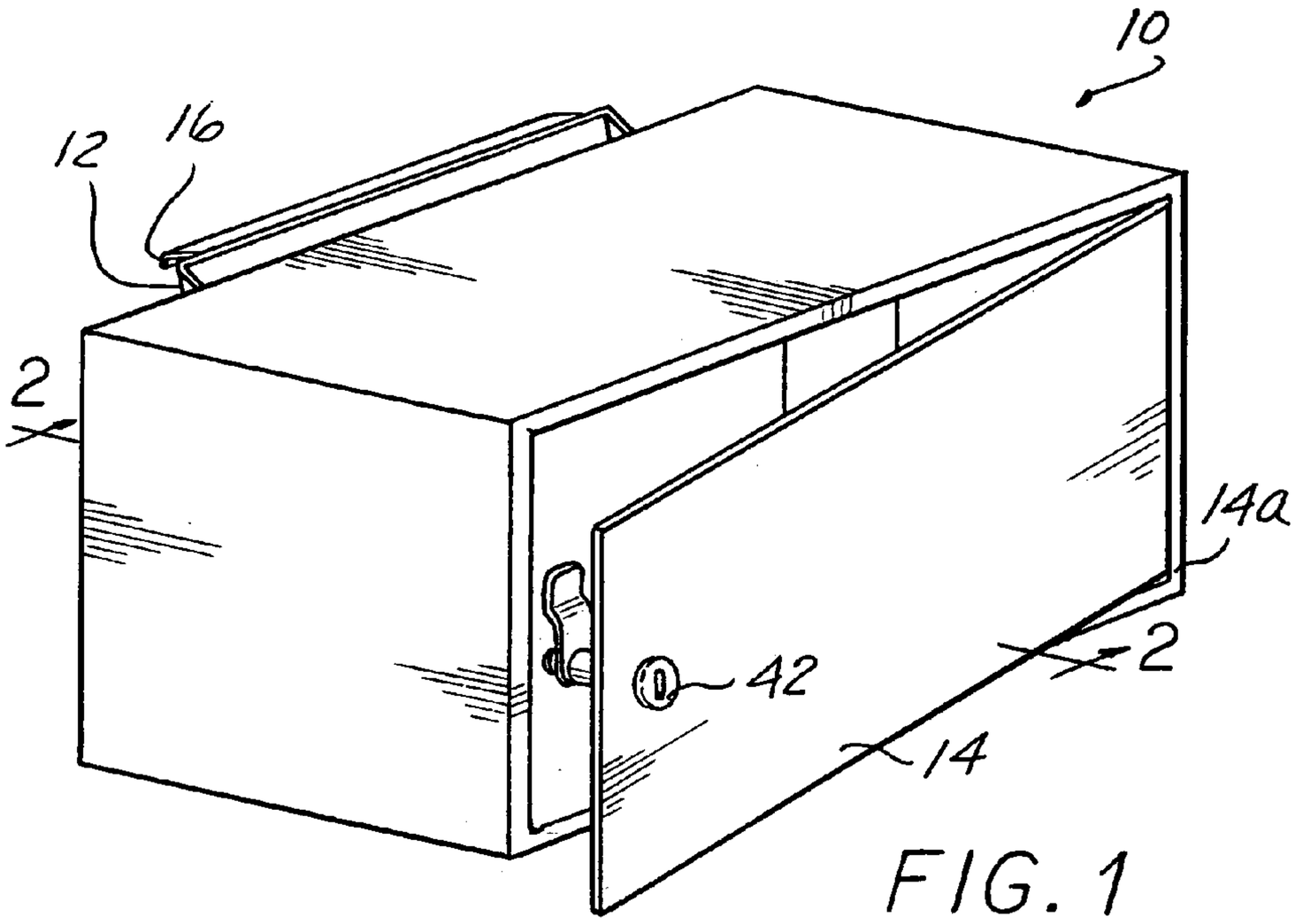



FIG. 1

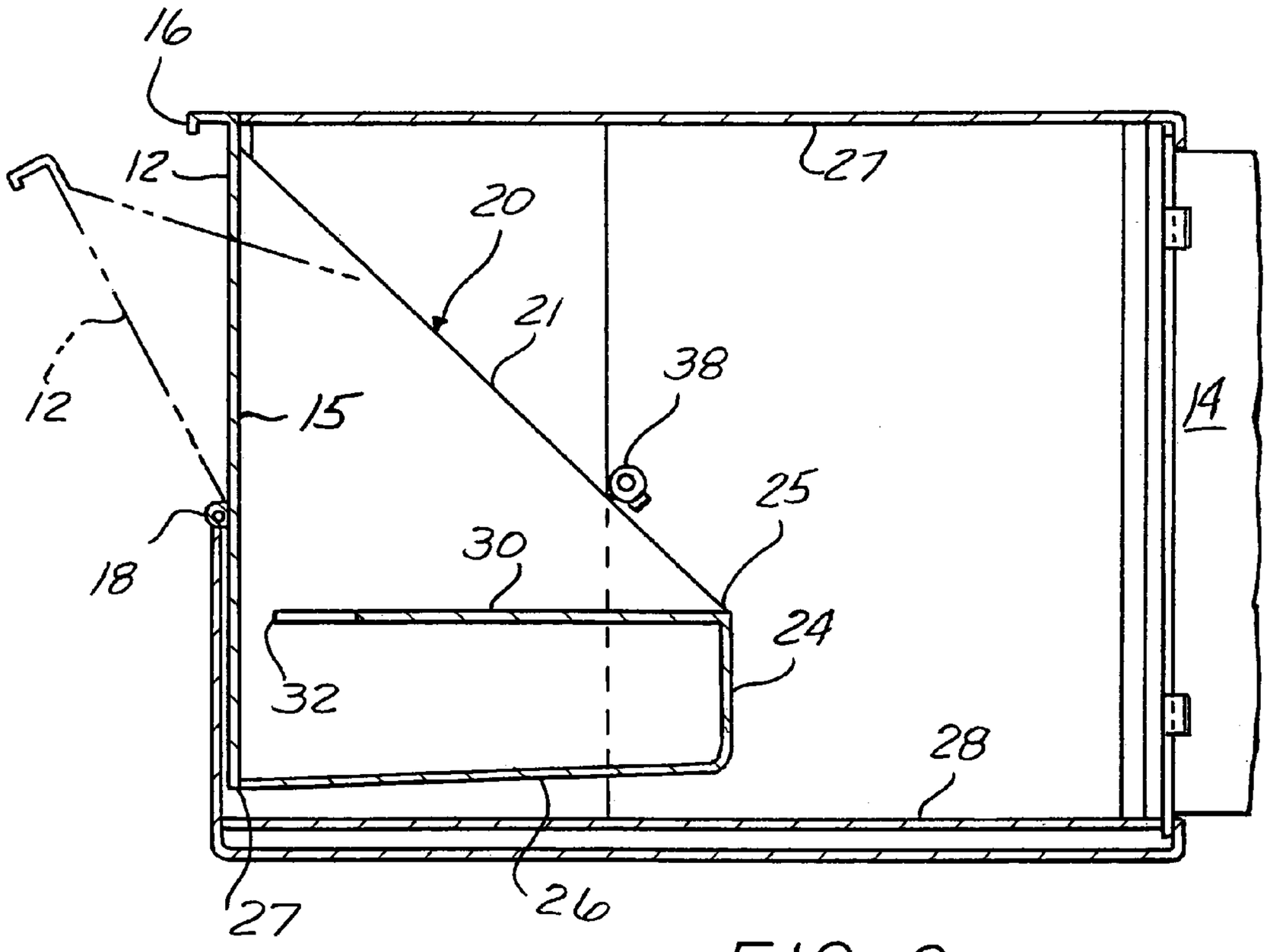



FIG. 2

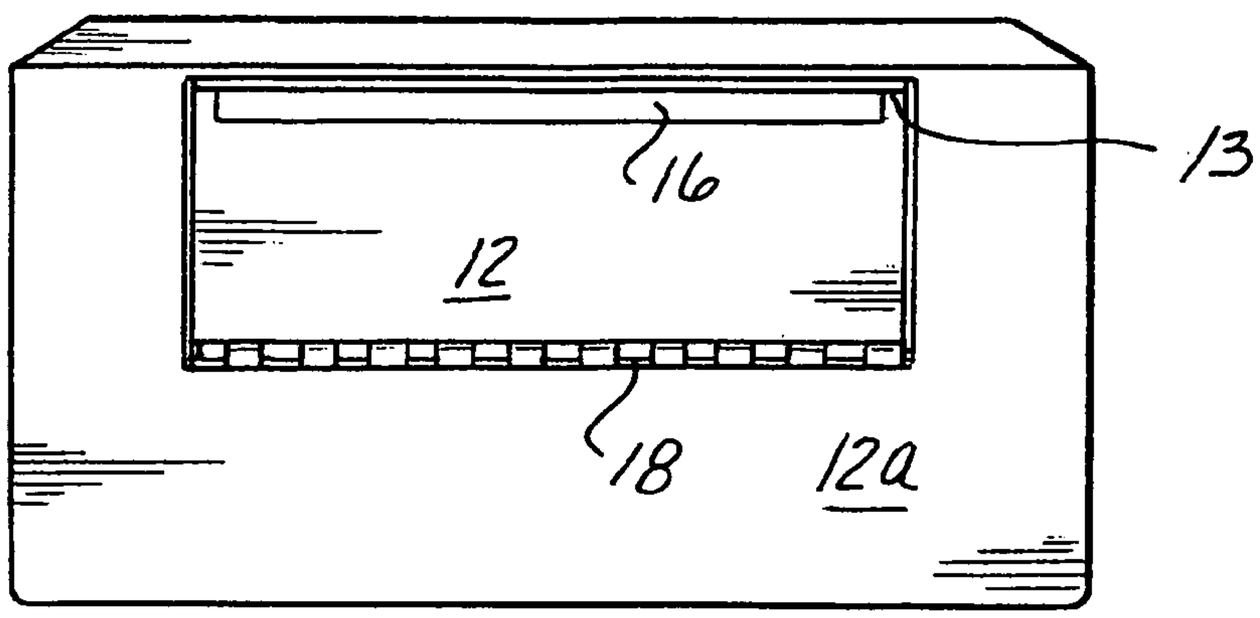



FIG. 3

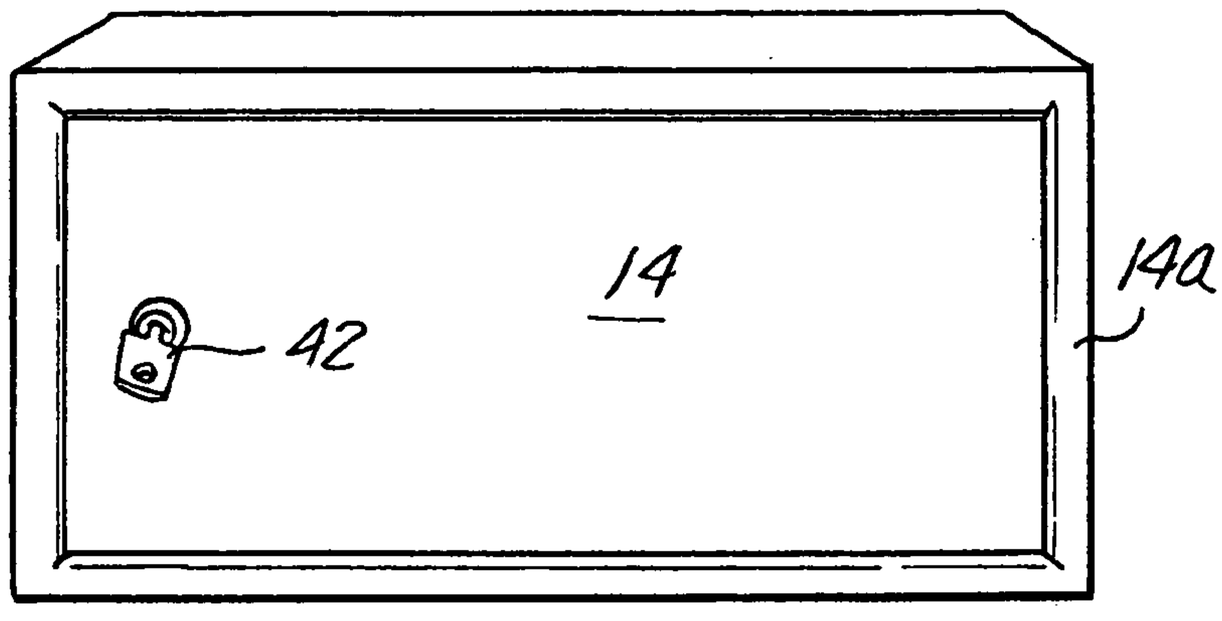



FIG. 4

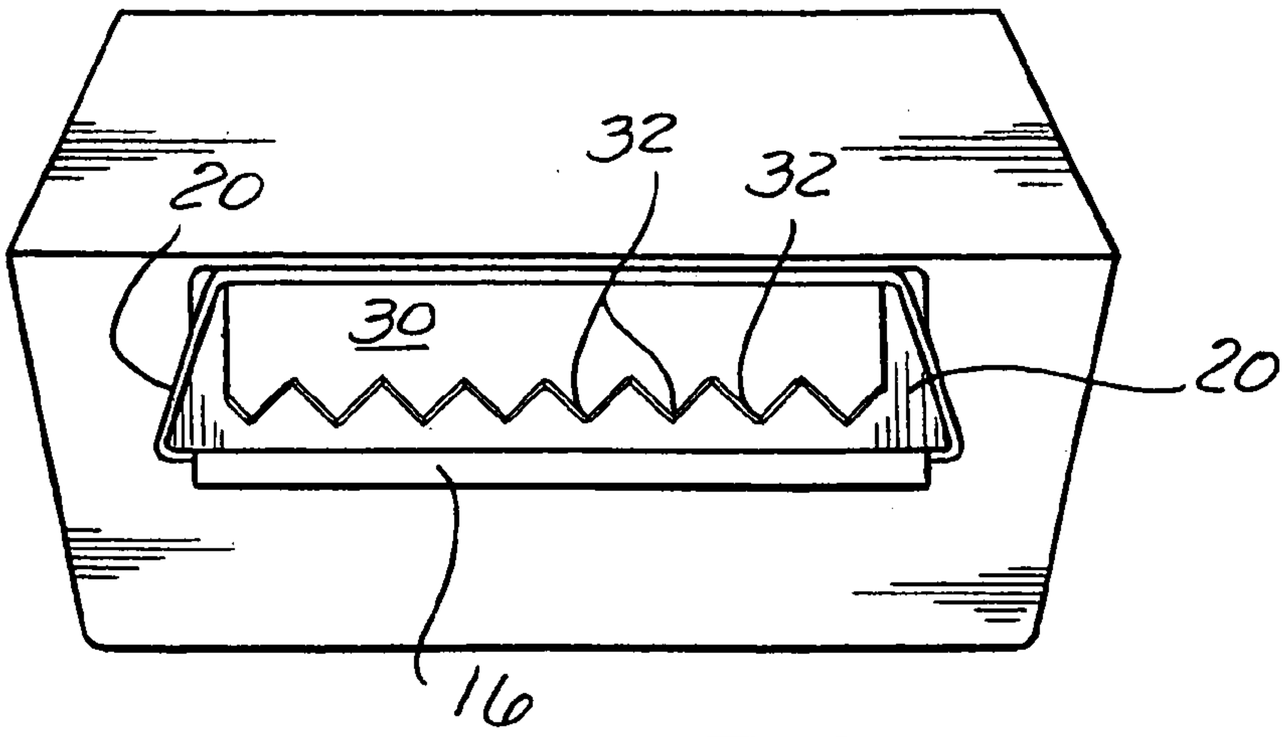



FIG. 6

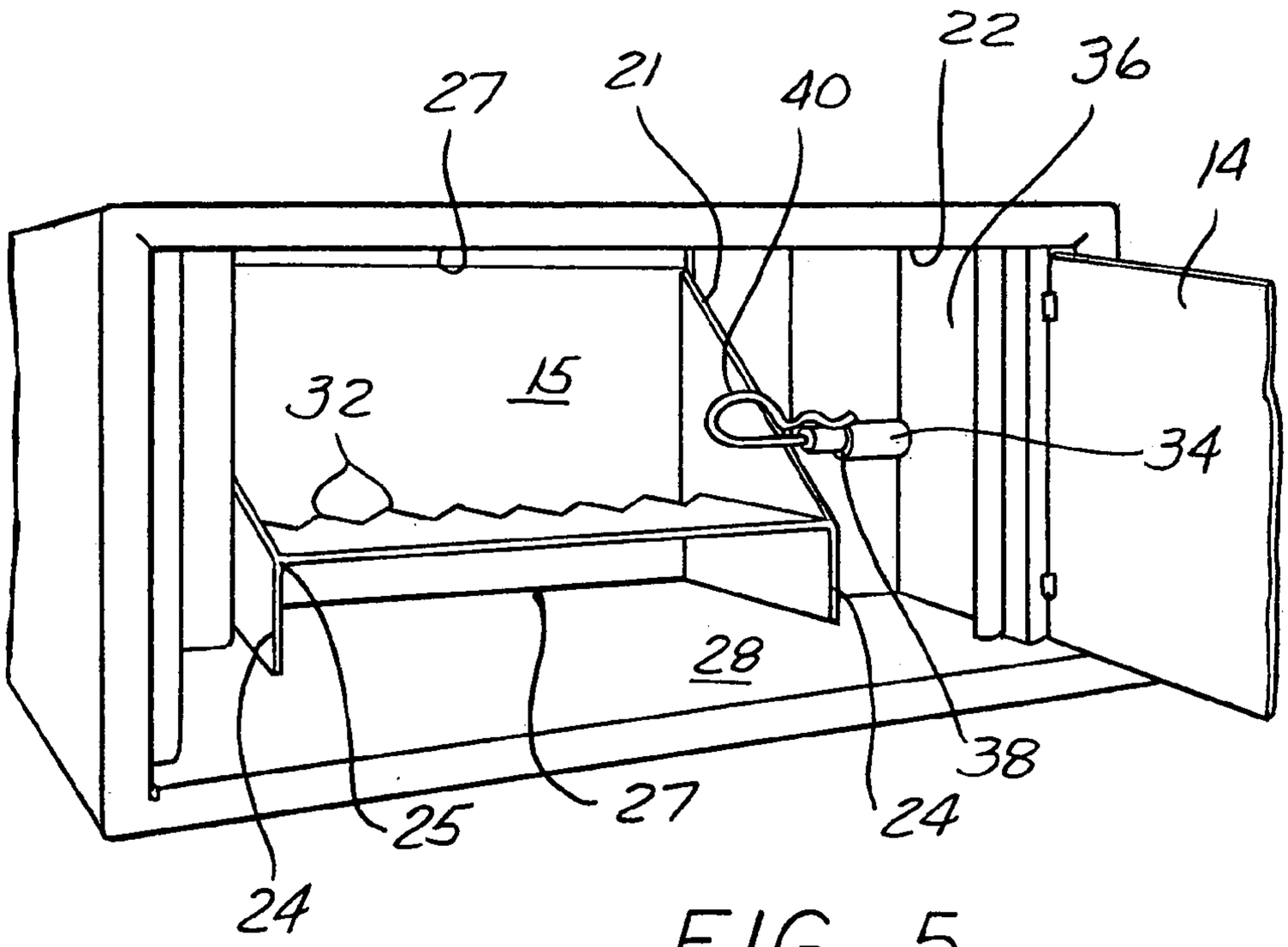

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FIG. 5

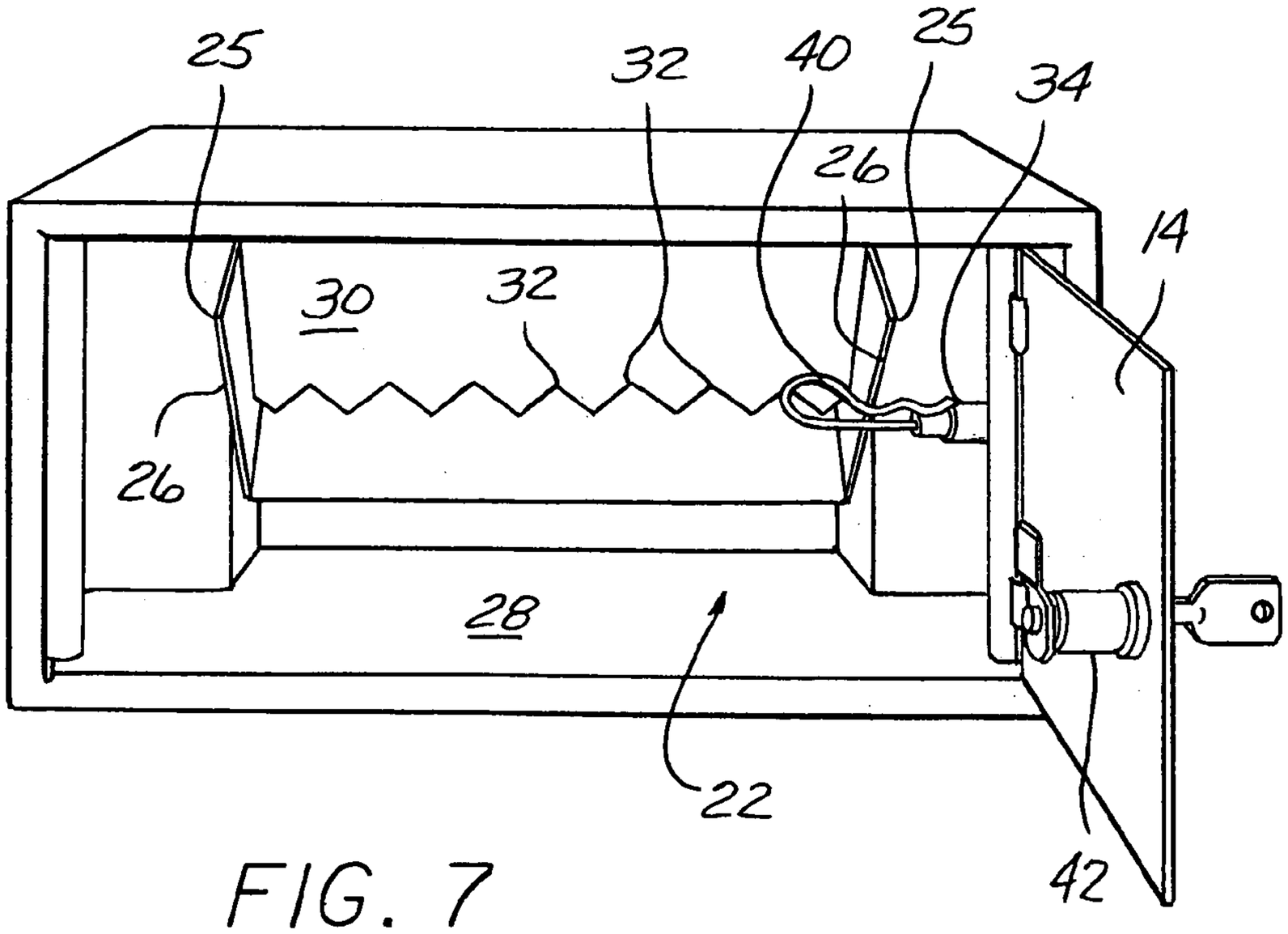
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FIG. 7

# CHARITY COLLECTION SAFE

This application claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/470,389 filed on May 14, 2003.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a collection safe for installation in a wall of a building. In particular, the invention relates to a collection safe where selective access to the interior of the safe is available from outside of the building as well as the inside of the building.

Devices that collect donations for charities are well known. These devices are usually positioned in selected locations that are convenient to donators for soliciting donations. Typically, fund-raising collection receptacles are placed near a cash register in a retail store with printed advertising asking the customer to donate. However, these collection receptacles must be monitored by the employees or volunteers to prevent theft. In addition, these receptacles are only capable of receiving donations when the establishment is open. Therefore, it would be advantageous for charities to have a collection safe that is capable of receiving donations at any time of day, as well as a collection safe that provides security of the contents from theft.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is the intent of the present invention to address the aforementioned concerns. In a first aspect of the invention, a charity collection safe is provided having a rectangular box with a hollow interior for storing contents and a first door in one side of the box and a second door in an opposing side of the box, wherein the first and second doors are selectively openable and the first door has means for deterring the retrieval of the contents in the hollow interior via access of the first door.

In another aspect of the invention, the charity collection safe, further includes a baffle located in the hollow interior wherein the baffle together with the first door forms a slot therebetween for receiving contributions.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the means for deterring retrieval of the content includes a series of sharp teeth formed on an edge of the baffle.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The description herein makes reference to the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a schematic drawing of the collection safe according to the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a sectional view of FIG. **1** taken along lines **2—2**;

FIG. **3** is a front view of the collection safe showing the exterior door in the closed position;

FIG. **4** is a rear view of the collection safe showing the interior door in a closed position;

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of the interior of the collection safe from the rear when the interior door is in the open position;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the collection safe showing the exterior door in a open position; and

FIG. **7** is a interior view of the collection safe when the exterior and interior doors are in the open position.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The collection safe **10** of the present invention as shown in FIGS. **1–7** has a box configuration which is sized to be installed in the space of a conventional concrete block used in the construction of buildings. The collection safe **10** can be mortared directly into the building in the place of a concrete block to prevent easy removal and theft of the contents. The depth of the collection safe **10** is configured so that when the collection safe **10** is installed into the building, one side **12***a* of the safe **10** is accessible to the exterior of the building and the opposing side **14***a* of the safe is accessible to the interior of the building. A typical depth of the collection safe **10** is 9.0–10.0 inches. The illustrated embodiment shows a collection safe **10** having a depth of 9.75 inches. However, the depth can be varied to accommodate other wall thicknesses.

The collection safe **10** includes an exterior door **12** that is exposed from the exterior of the building, and an interior door **14** opening to the interior of the building. The exterior door **12** has an upper lip **16** extending along the upper periphery **13** of the door **12** for gripping during the opening process. Looking at the cutaway side view of the collection safe **10** in FIG. **2**, it can be seen that the exterior door **12** extends nearly the entire length of the collection safe **10** and pivots about the hinge **18** at a central portion of the exterior door **12**. The hinge **18** preferably allows for 360° pivotal movement of the exterior door **12**. However, full pivotal movement of the exterior door **12** is restricted by the interior configuration of the exterior door **12**, which is explained hereinafter.

Looking at especially FIGS. **2** and **5**, the lateral edges of the exterior door **12** have side or lateral walls **20** extending into the interior cavity **22** of the collection safe **10**. In the illustrated embodiment, the angled portion **21** of the lateral walls **20** start approximately three eighths of an inch below the upper peripheral edge **13** of the exterior door **12**. The lateral walls **20** slope at essentially a 45 degree angle downwardly for a portion and then extends vertically downwardly along a vertical edge **24**. When the exterior door **12** is in the closed position, the vertical edge **24** is approximately equidistant between the exterior **12** and interior doors **14**. The vertical edge **24** of the lateral walls **20** of the exterior door **12** terminate approximately ½ inch above the floor **28** of the interior cavity **22**. (In the illustrated embodiment shown in FIG. **2**, the lateral walls **20** terminate ⅜ inch above the floor **28**.) As can be seen in FIG. **2**, the lateral walls **20** start the vertical slope below the horizontal level of the hinge **18**. The point **25** on the lateral walls **20** where the angled portions **21** of the walls **20** meet the vertical edges **24** provides a stop for the movement of the exterior door **12**. The exterior door **12** is restricted from further movement in the opening position when the points **25** on the lateral walls **20** contact the roof **27** of the collection safe **10**.

The vertical edges **24** of the lateral walls **20** terminate at an essentially horizontal lower edge **26** that is connected to the lower peripheral edge **27** of the exterior door **12**. The essentially horizontal edge **26** of the lateral wall **20** preferably has a slight incline from the exterior door **12** to the vertical edge **24**. As shown in FIG. **2** the essentially horizontal edge **26** inclines approximately one eighth inch from the exterior door **12** to the back vertical edge **24** over a span of approximately five inches. The slight incline of edges **26** facilitates locking the exterior door **12** in the open position.

A shelf or baffle **30** is connected between the two lateral walls **20**. The baffle **30** is connected to the lateral walls **20**

at the location where the angled edge **21** of a lateral wall **20** meets the vertical edge **24** of the lateral wall **20**. The baffle **30** extends from the points **25** on the lateral walls **20** toward the exterior door **12**. However, the baffle **30** terminates less than one inch and preferably approximately a half an inch from the exterior door **12** (as can be seen in FIG. **2**). The termination edge **32** of the baffle **30** forms a series of sharp teeth **32**, best seen in FIGS. **6** and **7**. The sharp teeth **32** may have other configurations in order to deter retrieval of the contents of the collection safe **10** from the exterior door **12**. However, the configurations of the termination edge **32** preferably include jagged edges. As stated supra, the termination edge **32** is spaced less than one inch and preferably approximately a half an inch away from the inside surface **15** of the exterior door **12**. The space between the inside surface **15** of the exterior door **12** and the baffle **30** forms a slot for allowing monetary donations to slide between the baffle **30** and exterior door **12**.

The space below the baffle **30** is opened to the floor **28** for retrieval of the donations through the interior door **14**. FIG. **5** shows a view of the interior cavity **22** of the collection safe **10** when the exterior door **12** is in the closed position and the interior door **14** is in the open position. Any donations that have entered through the exterior door **12** will fall through the slot formed between the inside surface **15** of the exterior door **12** and the baffle **30** and onto the floor **28** of the collection safe **10**.

The exterior door **12** can be selectively locked in the closed position, selectively locked in the open position, or allowed to be manually opened by a person on the outside of the building. A locking pin holder **34** is securely attached to a wall extension **36** located in the interior cavity **22** and adjacent one of the lateral walls **20** of the exterior door **12**. The locking pin holder **34** has an aperture **38** for receiving a pin **40**, such as shown in FIG. **5**. The pin **40** may have various shapes, but is positioned to traverse and connect the angled portion **21** of one of the lateral side walls **20** of the exterior door to prevent movement of the exterior door **12** and to lock the exterior door **12** in the closed position. When the pin **40** is positioned within the pin holder **34** as shown in FIG. **5**, and when the exterior door **12** is the closed position, the exterior door **12** can not be opened. When the exterior door **12** is in the open positioned, as shown in FIG. **7**, the exterior door **12** can be locked in the open position by installing the pin **40** into the pin holder **34**. Once the locking pin **40** is positioned within the pin holder **34**, the pin **40** comes in contact with lower edge **26** so that exterior door **12** is locked in the open position. If it is desired that the exterior door **12** be manually operably opened and closed from outside the building, the locking pin **40** is removed from the locking pin holder **34**.

The interior door **14** is a conventional hinged door having a lock and a key combination **42**. The lock and key combination may be replaced with a lock and combination box. Both locking procedures for the interior door **14** are conventional. The interior door **14** allows access to the interior cavity **22** from the inside of the building. A person having access through the interior door can optionally lock or unlock the exterior door **12** in one of the aforementioned combinations. Further, the person having access through the interior door **14** can retrieve any donations from the interior cavity **22** in the collection safe **10** at any time, whether the exterior door **12** is opened or closed.

The collection box **10** of the present invention provides a convenient device for a charity or business to accept donations or other documents from the public. The collection box **10** is intended for installation within a wall of a building so that a volunteer of the charity or an employee of the business can easily retrieve any submitted donations or documents from inside the building. The collection box **10** also prevents theft of the contents from someone outside of the building. The narrow slot formed by the baffle **30**, as well as the jagged edge **32** on the baffle **30**, deters unauthorized people from gaining access to the contents within the collection box **10**.

While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiments but, on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims, which scope is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures as is permitted under the law.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A charity collection safe, comprising: a rectangular box having a hollow interior for storing contents having a first door in one side of the box and a second door in an opposing side of the box; wherein said first and second doors are selectively openable, wherein the first door has means for deterring the retrieval of the contents in the hollow interior via access of the first door, wherein the first door has a pair of lateral side walls extending into the interior of the box and a baffle extending therebetween, wherein the baffle is oriented 90° from the first door and has a free end spaced less than one inch from the first door to provide a slot therebetween for receiving contributions.

**2**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the means for deterring retrieval of the contents includes a series of sharp teeth formed on an edge of the baffle.

**3**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the first door can be selectively locked in a closed position.

**4**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the first door can be selectively locked in a closed position, selectively locked in an open position, and manually openable by a person.

**5**. The charity safe of claim **2**, wherein the series of sharp teeth are formed on the free end of the baffle and said sharp teeth are spaced less than an inch from the first door for providing a slot therebetween for receiving contributions.

**6**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the first door pivots about a hinge connected to a center portion of the first door.

**7**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the free end of baffle has a jagged edge formed therein to provide the means for deterring the retrieval of the contents.

**8**. The charity safe of claim **7** further comprising a locking pin and locking pin holder for selectively locking the first door in one of the open and closed positions.

**9**. The charity safe of claim **8**, wherein the locking pin holder is attached to one of the lateral side walls.

**10**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the first door extends nearly the entire length of the box.

**11**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the second door can be selectively locked in a closed position.

**12**. The charity safe of claim **1**, wherein the locking mechanism is accessible only through the second door.

* * * * *